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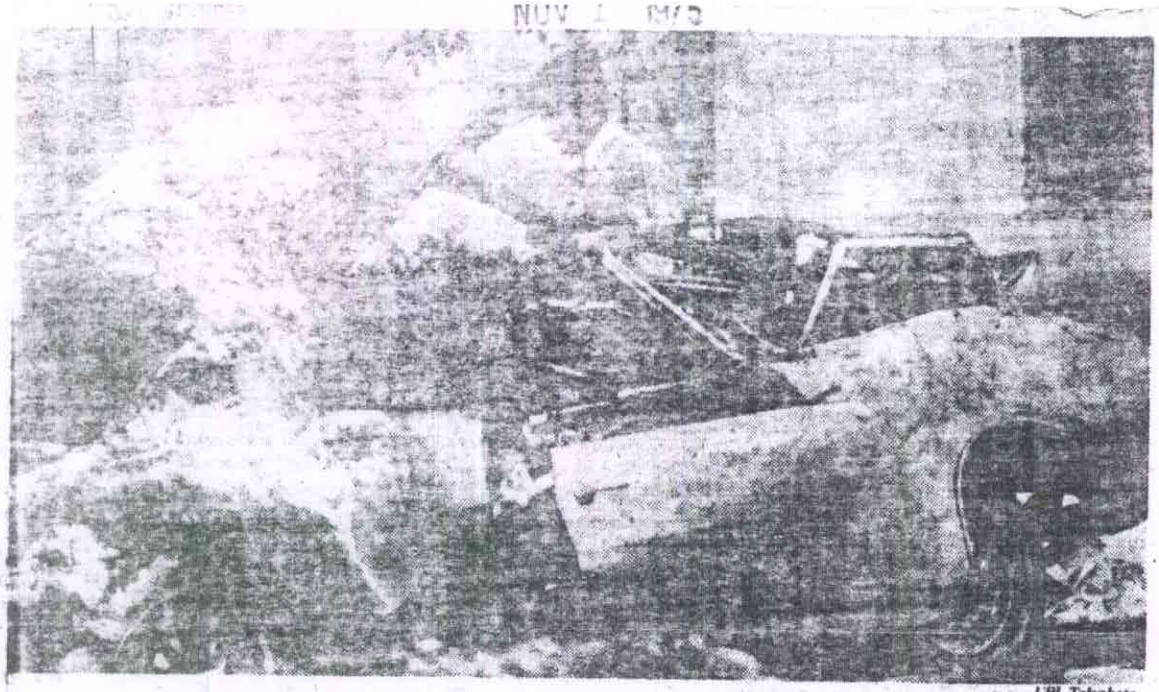

UPI Telephoto

A Miami detective investigated the remains of Rolando Masferrer's bombed-out car

Ex-Cuban Terrorist

Bomb Blast Kills 'The Tiger'

Miami

The one-time commander of a terrorist army during the regime of former Cuban President Fulgencio Batista reportedly was killed yesterday when a bomb ripped through his parked car in the "Little Havana" section of Miami.

The victim was tentatively identified as Rolando Masferrer, 56. In pre-Castro Cuba, Masferrer was nicknamed "El Tigre" for his reputation as commander of a private anti-Castro army called the Tigers.

More recently in Miami he published "Libertad," a weekly Cuban exile paper that continued a rhetorical struggle against Castro.

Police were awaiting medical identification of the remains of the body after the blast to confirm identification.

"Whoever he is, he's in a lot of pieces," said Sergeant George Lucas.

Police said the victim died almost instantly when his automobile exploded after he started the ignition, where the bomb was planted.

An eyewitness said the blast rained glass and debris a block away.

Masferrer a former senator in Cuba, was born in 1919 in Oriente Province, the son of a colonel and grandson of a general. His family moved to Texas when he was a child.

When in his 20s, Masferrer went to Spain and fought with the Communist International Brigade against the forces of Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

In Cuba in the 1940s, Masferrer worked for a time with the Communists but then split from them and set out to organize an anti-Communist group.

Associated Press